WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

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WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1970-1971

Chairman	-	Mr. F. Sawbridge
Vice-Chairman	-	Mrs. M.Cooper
Members	-	Mr. G. Bobbin
	-	Mr. L. Cox
	-	Mrs. H. Ferris
	-	Mr. F. Hooker
	-	Mrs. M.Kitson
	-	Mr. W. Mack
	-	Mrs.D. Pemberton
	-	Mr. C. Ramm
	-	Mr. L. Rowley
	-	Mr. G. Walker

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1970

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report for 1970.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population was 2,480. The estimated figure gives a decrease of 10 compared with 1969. Twenty-one births and nineteen deaths were registered for the urban district during the year. Eighteen of the nineteen deaths occurred in persons over 55 years of age.

An adequate supply of water was maintained to all parts of the urban district throughout the year.

I would like to thank all the members of the Urban District Council and of the Health Office without whose help this report would not have been produced, and also the members of the Public Health Committee and the Council for their patience and continued support.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

L.G.POOLE, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.,D.T.M. & H.
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

GENERAL STATISTICS

(a) Area :- The Urban District covers 2,670 acres.

(b) Population :- The Estimated Mid-Year Home Population for the District for 1970 was 2,480.

Year	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Estimated Mid-Year Population	2470	2450	2450	2450	2450	2450	2450	2450	2490	2480

The total number of deaths was 19; the number of live births 21.

(c) The Rateable Value of the District was £ 84,459

(d) The Product of the Penny Rate was £ 330

(e) Rainfall readings at Wells :

1970			1969		
January	35.7	mm.	January	43.4	mm
February	49.5	"	February	45.7	"
March	42.3	"	March	47.2	"
April	78.6	"	April	54.6	"
May	21.8	"	May	61.5	"
June	31.8	"	June	50.5	"
July	50.9	"	July	53.8	"
August	38.0	"	August	89.7	"
September	17.7	"	September	6.6	"
October	46.5	"	October	9.4	"
November	113.9	"	November	93.7	"
December	47.9	"	December	77.9	"
Totals	574.6	"	Totals	634.0	"

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The Registrar General's figure for live births and stillbirths in the District for 1970 was 21 and 0 respectively.

Table showing the sex of legitimate and illegitimate live births
(the figures in brackets are corresponding numbers for 1969)

Live Births	Males		Females		Totals	
Legitimate	8	(12)	9	(13)	17	(25)
Illegitimate	2	(-)	2	(2)	4	(2)
Totals	10	(12)	11	(15)	21	(27)

Live Birth Rate

The crude rate was 8.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with a rate of 10.8 in 1969; 19.8 in 1968; 11.4 in 1967 and 11.02 in 1966. The corrected birth rate (using a comparability factor of 1.14) was 9.7 per 1,000 of the population, compared with a rate of 16.0 for England and Wales, and 16.1 for the Administrative County of Norfolk.

Illegitimate Births

There were four illegitimate births. The percentage of illegitimate live births to the total live births for 1970 was 19, compared with 7% in 1969; 4.2% in 1968; 17.14% in 1967 and zero in 1966.

Still Births

There were no stillbirths in 1970, giving a stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths of zero. The rate for England and Wales was 13.0 for 1970, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 13.

Infant Deaths

No infant under one year of age died in 1970.

Infant Mortality Rate

This is calculated as the total infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and for 1970 was zero. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1970 was 18.0 and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 15.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths in legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, and for 1970 was zero.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths in illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. This was zero in 1970.

Neonatal Mortality Rate

Neonatal Mortality Rate is the total of deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births. This was zero in 1970.

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths of infants under one week of age per 1,000 live births. This was zero in 1970.

Perinatal Mortality Rate

This rate is combined stillbirths and deaths under one week of age per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. The rate for 1970 was zero.

Maternal Mortality Rate

No deaths occurred in 1970, therefore maternal mortality rate was zero.

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Live Births	27	28	24	27	21
Live Birth Rate - Crude	11.02	11.4	9.8	10.8	8.5
Live Birth Rate - Corrected	12.6	12.9	11.17	12.3	9.7
Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	0	17.1	4.2	7	19
Still Births	1	0	3	0	0
Still Birth Rate	35.7	0	111.1	0	0
Total Still and Live Births	28	28	27	27	21
Infant Deaths	1	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate	37.0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate - Legitimate.	37.0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate - Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	35.7	0	111	0	0
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0

Deaths from all causes

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths tabled under the International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1966.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Age in Years 5-14	55-	65-	75 & over
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	1	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1
Leukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	1	1
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	4	-	1	3	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	1	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	1	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	M	1	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-
Total All Causes	M	12	1	3	7	1
	F	7	-	1	2	4

Deaths from all causes - Cont'd.

There were 19 deaths in all, in the District in 1970 - 12 male and 7 female.

Heart Disease caused 5 deaths.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system caused 4 deaths.

If all deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, including vascular lesions of the nervous system, are combined, a figure of 9 deaths is reached. Thus 44% of all deaths was from these causes.

Cancer caused 6 deaths. One of these deaths was due to cancer of the lung or bronchus.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	-	7.7
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (using comparability factor of 0.87)	-	6.7
Corrected Death Rate for the Administrative County of Norfolk per 1,000 estimated population.	-	10.4
Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population.	-	11.7

The value of the Corrected Death Rate is that comparisons can be made between different areas of the country.

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Deaths	27	40	29	29	19
Death Rate - Crude	11.02	16.3	11.8	11.6	7.7
Death Rate - Corrected	9.3	13.9	10.1	10.2	6.7

SECTION II

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Five cases of measles were reported during the year.

Tuberculosis

No new case was reported.

There was one death from Pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Register in Wells at the end of 1970 :-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
No.on Register at 31/12/70	3	1	-	-	3	1

B.C.G. Vaccination

Immunisation against tuberculosis is offered by the County Council to boys and girls who are in their fourteenth year of age. The injection is given at school.

The following table gives more information of B.C.G. vaccination in the District in 1970.

School	Tested	Read	Positive	Negative and Vaccinated
Alderman Peel, Wells	89	75	4	71

Rubella Immunisation

Immunisation against German Measles is offered by the County Council to girls who are in their fourteenth year of age. This immunisation has been introduced this year and is given at school. The girls immunised in the District numbered 31.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the District in 1970. Immunisation is offered by the County Council.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis during 1970, in Wells U.D.

Age Groups	Wells U.D.
Children born in 1970	-
Children born in 1969	19
Children born in 1968	1
Children born in 1967	-
Children born 1963 - 1966	2
Others under age 16	-
Re-inforcing doses (all ages)	15
Total	37

Smallpox

There were no cases of smallpox in the District in 1970.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations, by age groups, carried out in Wells Urban District in 1970.

Age at date of Vaccination	Wells U.D.	
	Primary	Re-Vacc.
0 - 3 months	-	-
3 - 6 "	-	-
6 - 9 "	-	-
9 - 12 "	-	-
1 year	17	-
2 - 4 years	1	-
5 - 15 "	-	-
Total	18	-

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

There were no cases under this heading notified in the District.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in Wells U.D. in 1970.

		Wells U.D.
Triple	Initial immunisation	19
	Booster injection	1
Diphtheria/ Tetanus	Initial immunisation	1
	Booster injection	15
Diphtheria	Initial immunisation	-
	Booster injection	-
Tetanus	Initial immunisation	-
	Booster injection	2

SECTION III

Contributed by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTIONS

The following inspections were carried out during the year:-

Housing	22
Building Regulations and Grants	403
Slaughter Houses	292
Shops	72
Pests Acts	360
Factories and Workshops	11
Miscellaneous	163

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Further consideration was given to the action to be taken in relation to the dwellings bounded by Theatre Road, Freeman Street, Dogger Lane and Stearmans Yard. Consideration was given to the idea of making an Improvement Area under the provisions of the Housing Act,1969.

After considerable discussion, the Council resolved on the 14th January,1970, as follows:

"That the Council deal with individual properties and not with the area as a whole, and applications for grant be considered forthwith".

During the year three applications were received in respect of Improvement Grants and one for a Standard Grant.

The remainder of the area still provides a great deal of unsatisfactory housing and no doubt the matter will again exercise the Council's attention in the near future because, until the houses in that area are dealt with in a reasonable manner, the Council will invariably be required to re-house people from unfit properties.

Individual Unfit Houses

The following table shows action taken under Section 14 et.seq. of the Housing Act,1957:

Representations Received	3
Representations Outstanding at 1.1.70	0
Closing Orders Made	1
Closing Orders Revoked	1
Demolition Orders Made	0
Demolition Orders Rescinded	0
Undertakings Accepted	4
Undertakings Cancelled	0
Remaining to be determined	0
Houses Demolished	0

Council House Building

The Council has resolved that further dwellings be erected in Northfield Estate, between Northfield Crescent and Northfield Lane, and proposals for the erection of these dwellings are being prepared by the Council's Architect.

The stock of Council Houses remains as follows:

One-Bedroom Type Dwellings	35
Two-Bedroom Type Dwellings	129
Three-Bedroom Type Dwellings	178
Four-Bedroom Type Dwellings	10
Prefabricated Bungalows	10

Improvements to Privately Owned Houses

Standard Grants and Improvement Grants have been made as shown in the following tables, showing a comparison with 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969:

STANDARD GRANTS

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Value of Grants Approved	Value of Grants Paid
1965	10	8	£1,100.0.0.	£ 930.5. 0.
1966	12	11	£1,588.9.7.	£1,098.3. 3.
1967	11	10	£1,195.0.0.	£1,420.1. 4.
1968	8	8	£1,200.0.0.	£1,266.5.11.
1969	6	5	£ 780.0.0.	£1,396.8.10.
1970	1	1	£ 150.0.0.	£ 320.0. 0.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS
HOUSING ACT 1969

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Value of Grants Approved	Value of Grants Paid
1969	6	1	£ 786.18.3.	-
1970	8	12	£11,070. 8.11.	£1,596.14.11.

Private Enterprise Building

During the year 11 new dwellings were completed by private enterprise, and one dwelling was reconverted to its former condition providing two dwellings.

WATER SUPPLY

On the 1st April,1970, the Council ceased to operate the agency agreement with North-West Norfolk Water Board, and the officers of that Board became responsible for the supply of water in the whole of the Council's area.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year a new pumping station, which receives the foul drainage from the Caravan Site, was connected to the Dortmund Tank receiving chamber of the Sewage Works. It has been found that when the Beach Pumping Station and the Sewage Works Pumping Station are both operating fully, there is a high degree of surcharging of the Dortmund Tank with consequent flooding of the filter bed and blocking of the distributor arms. Arrangements are in hand to limit the out-flow from the Beach Pumping Station and the number of pumps operating simultaneously at the pumping station in order to eliminate this difficulty.

As a result of the new Pumping Station coming into operation it is no longer necessary to operate the sewage storage tanks at the Beach or to cart sewage in the sewage tanker along Beach Road to the Sewage Works.

Sludge Treatment

The problem of treatment of sludge remains to be resolved and it will be necessary to install sludge drying equipment in the very near future to eliminate carting sludge to the Refuse Disposal Tip.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of refuse continues to improve and the number of traders taking advantage of trade refuse collection is increasing, but refuse disposal is still a serious problem, the tip being uncontrolled, unfenced and continuously burning.

In November of the year the Council agreed to an experiment of trenching on the tip in order to provide tipping at a level below that of the adjoining road, but the whole of the tip top has been covered with all kinds of refuse, principally trade wastes of varying kinds, and the situation is still far from satisfactory. It is hoped that within the next year, the Council will agree to fencing the tip and preventing the promiscuous disposal of refuse in the area.

Civic Amenities Act,1967

Abandoned vehicles have been collected and stored at the Council's Warham Road Tip, and a number of these have been sold. The Council has introduced a system for the collection of large items of domestic refuse,to eliminate the need to have dumping points in the built up part of the town. This system has proved highly satisfactory and the collection of large items of domestic refuse from the premises at which they arise has made an appreciable reduction in the number of old pieces of furniture laying about the district.

RODENT CONTROL

The visits and treatments of the Rodent Operator are summarised as follows:

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	234	-
Number infested by (i) Rats	71	
(ii) Mice	7	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	12	6
Number infested by (i) Rats	11	3
(ii) Mice	0	0

Inspection of farm premises continues and it is found that Farmers are giving satisfactory co-operation, but the rodent population, while being contained, is not being eliminated.

CARAVAN SITES

The provision of amenities at the Council's Caravan Site was not completed by the end of the 1970 season, but it is anticipated that they will all be in working order by the 1971 season.

Private Caravan Site

This site is being continuously improved and is now at a reasonable standard in relation to laundering facilities and bathing and sanitary accommodation.

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

The following ships entered the port during the year:

Ships from		Arrivals at Wells		Departures ex Wells	
		Full	Empty	Full	Empty
Foreign Ports	1965	24	0	3	11
	1966	31	2	24	14
	1967	41	3	15	22
	1968	43	2	5	17
	1969	30	0	1	15
	1970	30	5	24	20
Home Ports	1965	2	5	2	15
	1966	1	26	11	11
	1967	1	22	16	14
	1968	0	12	12	23
	1969	0	0	0	14
	1970	1	13	0	5

The activity in the port fluctuates considerably and the total figures for arrivals from 1965 to 1970 are as follows:

1965 .. 31
1966 .. 60
1967 .. 67
1968 .. 57
1969 .. 30
1970 .. 49

Messrs. Favor Parker have carried out some alterations to their premises adjoining the Quay and the activity of this Company is increasing, while the activity of Eastern Counties Farmers Ltd. shows a considerable reduction.

The net tonnage of ships entering the port was 8,398 tons, and in none of the ships were any serious defects or any rat infestation.

MILK SUPPLY

Services Under the Food & Drugs Act,1955
Milk Supply - Brucella Abortus

No notifications of Brucella Abortus have been received, and no raw milk is sold within the district. Milk is processed at two factories outside the district and is delivered by two retailers, and sold at a number of shop premises.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Description of Premises	Number of Premises	Premises to which Reg.16 Applies	Premises complying with Reg.16	Premises to which Reg.19 Applies	Premises complying with Reg.19
Grocers/Pharmacy/Greengrocers/Sweetmeats	23	23	23	23	23
Hotels	3	3	3	3	3
Cafes	10	10	10	10	10
Public Houses	7	7	7	7	7
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4	4
Bakers	3	3	3	3	3
Butchers	3	3	3	3	3
Whelkhouses/ Shellfish Processing	6	6	6	6	6

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The following table shows slaughtering carried out in the District for the period 1965 to 1970. All meat is inspected before leaving the slaughter premises.

Animals Slaughtered

	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
1965	351	18	306	743	-	1418
1966	355	23	208	771	-	1357
1967	420	29	823	802	-	2074
1968	349	33	656	742	27	1807
1969	385	39	382	776	32	1614
1970	463	46	380	932	22	1843

Unsound Meat seized or surrendered
All diseases except for Tuberculosis

	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases Seized	-	-	2
Percentage	-	-	0.214
Carcases from which some part was condemned	68	2	22
Percentage	14.68	0.52	2.360

Tuberculosis Only

	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases Seized	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-
Carcases from which some part was condemned	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-

Cysticercus Bovis

	Bullocks	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases Seized	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-
Carcases from which some part was condemned	-	-	-
Percentage	-	-	-

Unsound Meat

The following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:

Food	Parts	Weight	Cause of Unfitness
Bovine			
Lungs	12	38 lbs	Pneumonia/Pleurisy/ Abscesses/Pericard-itis.
Livers	47	298 lbs	Abscesses/Distoma-tosis/Necrosis/ Adhesions.
Skirt	2	3 lbs	Abscesses/Adhesions.
Carcase Meat	3	203 lbs	Bruising/Adhesions.
Gut Complete	1	100 lbs	Adhesions.
Tongue	1	4 lbs	Abscesses.
Head	1	16 lbs	Abscesses Sub/max.
Calves			
Carcase Meat	1	2 lbs	Bruising
Pigs			
Hearts	9	15½ lbs	Pericarditis
Lungs	5	20 lbs	Pneumonia/Pleurisy
Livers	2	7 lbs	Pneumonia/Hepatitis
Pluck	1	7 lbs	Pneumonia
Head	1	8 lbs	P.T.B.
Carcase Meat	2	12 lbs	Bruising
Whole Pigs	2	160 lbs	Septacaemia/ Emaciation
Sheep			
Carcase Meat	1	16 lbs	Bruising
Lung	2	4 lbs	Rufescens/Para-sites.
Other Foods			
Chopped Ham with Pork	15 tins	180 oz.	Loss of Vacuum.
Pineapple	24 tins	360 oz.	Transit Damage.
Icecream Various	268		Failure of Refri-gerator.
Corned Beef	1 tin	6 lbs	Perforation/ Decomposition.
Carcase Meat - Beef	1	194 lbs	Extensive Bruising.

FACTORIES ACT

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Annual Report for 1970 under Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	18	11	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out Workers' premises)	17	4	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Classifications	No. of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	9	1
Retail Shops	1	37	6
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	-	1	-
Catering Premises	-	11	7
Fuel Storage Depots	-	4	1